

MINUTES
FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 3, 2010 7:00 P.M.

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa. Presiding was Mayor Steven J. Ireland with Councilors Tim Waggoner, Chris Greenwald, Kevin Rink, Brad Randolph, Bob Chesnut, Jason Huppert and Mark Lair present.

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

None.

AGENDA

With it duly noted that Item #4 was being deleted from the Agenda, Rink MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to approve the agenda, as written.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

CONSENT AGENDA

Lair MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to approve:

- Minutes of July 20, 2010, as written;
- New Five-Day Class “B” Beer Permit to Holy Trinity Catholic Schools for the Rodeo Arena (East Beer), effective September 8, 2010;
- New Five-Day Class “B” Beer Permit to Holy Trinity Catholic Schools for the Rodeo Arena (West Beer), effective September 8, 2010;
- New Five-Day Class “C” Liquor License to Holy Trinity Catholic Schools for the Rodeo Arena (Arena Beer), effective September 8, 2010;
- New Five-Day Class “C” Liquor License to Holy Trinity Catholic Schools for the Rodeo Arena (Main Beer), effective September 8, 2010;
- New Five-Day Class “B” Beer Permit for the Mexican Fiesta, 3411 Avenue Q, effective September 15, 2010;
- Reappointment of Robert N. Johnson, III, as City Attorney, effective July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012;
- Reappointment of Suellen M. Mead as City Clerk, effective July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012;
- Mayor’s appointment of Denise Boyer to the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority Board of Directors, term expiring May 17, 2012; and
- Payment of Claims.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE C-493, RAISING GARBAGE FEES: Waggoner MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to approve the 3rd reading of an ordinance amending Section 6-3-15(B) so as to increase monthly residential garbage fees from \$12.50 per month to \$15.00 per month for two 40-gallon containers.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-46, CLG GRANT: Chesnut MOVED and Huppert SECONDED to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor's signature on an application for a Certified Local Government grant to allow the Historic Preservation Commission to do a detailed study of the residential area along Avenues E and F between 4th and 10th Streets and a small section along Avenue F to 12th Street.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

OTHER

PURCHASE POLICE VEHICLE: Lair MOVED and Chesnut SECONDED to approve the purchase of a 2010 Crown Victoria from Jim Baier Ford of Fort Madison, Iowa, in the amount of \$22,001.64 for the Police Department.

Chesnut inquired if the trade-in could be used as a courtesy car at the airport. Chief Niggemeyer indicated he didn't think this particular car would be good for that because of constant mechanical problems. Randolph noted that the department eventually needs to begin looking at a smaller body-style fleet due to gas prices.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

SANTA FE DEPOT ENGINEERING AMENDMENT: Waggoner MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on Professional Services Agreement Amendment No. 1 for the Santa Fe Depot Project.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

1 NAY (Huppert)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF PUBLIC WORKS REORGANIZATION: This topic started in June and more information has been added. The top bracket is the current salaries. This is a long-term proposal. On the second page, the Parks Director's duties will be shifted to a different level.

Randolph said the way this is drawn out, a director oversees three entities so we're creating a new position? Mr. Smith replied that he was consolidating Water-Wastewater-Public Works department heads but the superintendents are the current number two positions which are in place now. It was then asked if Wastewater-Water superintendents could be combined. It is possible, but that person would have to get qualifications in both areas.

The confusion continued in that on the second page Councilors felt the chart showed that one person would oversee the Public Works-Police-Fire Departments. Mr. Smith explained that is not the case. He would be creating one large department. What we are calling divisions now would be departments. He also firmly believed that the salary structures should not all be the same. Waggoner questioned the salary of the management analyst. The current salary is approximately \$55,000 and would remain as such. Chesnut asked about the savings. Mr. Smith estimated about \$40-50,000 but this figure would more than likely be around \$100,000 when benefits were added in. Mr. Smith also mentioned that he might have to bump the Public Works Director/Engineer's salary up a bit from the \$68,000. The benefits of this consolidation among others, would be better communication, joint purchase and use of equipment and cross-training.

Chesnut said when you're talking about the future, you're looking at someone new to replace the three retiring department heads. He has asked for years to look at consolidating departments and/or heads and was happy to see this proposal. Larry Dinwiddie was asked if he had any thoughts on the consolidation. Dinwiddie indicated he saw the plan as working and we would have to change the mind-sets of the workers, but it is possible.

The general consensus was to keep working toward the consolidation. Waggoner said we should make this clear to the public and understandable to them as there is a lot of confusion out there, we need to clarify and educate. The bottom line is savings.

Chesnut said he would like to talk about the duties of the management analyst. Mr. Smith advised in addition to the duties listed on the chart, the position would also handle special projects, communications, with personnel matters down the line. In addition, the auditors have asked us to keep a better tracking of grants. This could fall on Mr. Luna. Randolph stated he was sold on the aspect of consolidation but was hoping that we were not creating this position.

Greenwald asked what Mr. Smith needed to carry this forward? Mr. Smith answered he needed permission to go forward with this major change. The duties of the positions and public perception of these changes needs clarified. Lair inquired if Luna could work on getting grants as well as managing those we currently have. That is a possibility. Randolph asked who was doing this now. Mr. Smith answered he was trying to do it himself or hand over to department heads if they have the time. By future elimination of department heads, there will be fewer people to hand off to.

Chesnut stated he was 99% in agreement with the proposal but he still questioned the duties of the analyst and asked for a better job description. Mr. Smith said he would like to go ahead and moved forward and will try to portray the true picture of the reorganization.

Waggoner MOVED and Chesnut SECONDED that the City Council allow the City Manager to restructure City government along the lines presented and to provide budget information each year.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

PRESENTATIONS BY LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Nothing remarkable to report.

REPORT BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

Joey Herren advised the training center is moving forward; Chief Niggemeyer said the Civil Service Commission approved his list of 11 applicants and he will be hiring 2 new officers soon; Larry Dinwiddie reported the open house for the new water plant has been delayed until the punch list has been completed; Sarah Clendineng spoke briefly concerning her Library Report in Council packets and announced the new hours of operation will start next Monday; Peg Steffensmeier said that the auditors have been in for the City's annual audit.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 P.M., Rink MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to adjourn until Tuesday, August 17 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

VOICE VOTE APPROVAL